

## **Arlington Council on Aging**

### **Meeting Minutes, December 20, 2018**

**Present:** Jim Munsey, Paul Raia, Rick Fentin, Jill Greenlee, Christine Bongiorno, Mary Hung, Nancy Cox, Michael Quinn, Anne Brown, and Marge Vanderhill. BOS liaison: Joe Curro. Associates present: Mara Klein Collins, Anne Fitzgerald, and Karen Nichols.

A. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Jim Munsey at 6:00 PM on December 20, 2018, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

B. Citizen's open forum: none.

C. Minutes of the November 15, 2018, were approved. Paul so moved and Rick seconded.

D. Executive Director Report, December 2018

1. Building and driveway updates: We met with the architect and designer on Monday to review IT plans and needs. I will schedule to have the architect at a future meeting to show drawings. The budget is coming in over original anticipated amount. One area that I believe we can have a hand in helping is with furniture for the new space. I would like to propose that we agree to move forward with a capital campaign in partnership with the Arlington Seniors Association to raise \$200,000 to be used for furnishing the ground floor and second floor of the building. The driveway project is still on-going. The front driveway will get a final layer applied in the spring, additional site work will be done at that time as well. In the back parking lot, they are working on the HC ramp base layer today and will pour concrete next week.
2. Age Friendly: Shannon Murphy our new Intake, Referral and Programming Specialist has taken on this project. She has brought herself up to speed on what is needed for Age Friendly, determined where Arlington currently stands and is developing a strategy to start the process again. The good news is that Arlington is already doing most of the work that needs to happen within a community to be Age Friendly, we just need to set an official plan and develop a coalition to move the initiative forward.
3. Programming update: We have developed a plan to improve the flow of information around program/event planning. Staff will meet monthly to discuss needs and generate ideas for programs to address needs. Chris Angell will serve as lead on advertising and posting information on social media.

4. Holiday Warm Wishes bags-68 seniors received bags, contents all donated by residents, agencies, gift cards donated by Coldwell Banker. Volunteers assembled and delivered bags to seniors, mostly isolated and alone at the holiday season. Staff were eager to run this program again after a few year hiatus.
5. Property tax support: Property tax work off program participants for last year closed out, 11 seniors participated and worked from 2-137 hours. Quarter 4 tax bill will be reduced by up to \$1500 depending on the number of hours worked. A new round of property tax work off participants started up again on 11/1/18, there are 20 participants this round. Elderly and disabled tax relief applications are out on the website, outreach will start and applications due January 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the donation based fund that will be used to reduce property taxes for elders and disabled residents in need. Additional property tax relief will be proposed to the Select Board and Town Meeting in the spring. One idea is the property tax circuit breaker which will limit the property tax amount an income eligible senior will be required to pay. This shifts the tax burden onto other property owners.

E. Report of the Chair

1. Hearing device has been repaired.
2. Parking a challenge during construction. Alternatives during construction: use church parking lots? Shuttle. Publicize van service...

F. Minuteman Senior Services Report: Marge Vanderhill

1. Lisa Gurgone, Mass Home Care Executive Director, presented. She is the legislative agent for all 26 Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs) in the state. Her goals are: develop a more direct relationship with legislators, have uniform care assessment between ASAPs, update marketing strategies, and increase the number of home health aides.
2. MSS would like to increase engagement with employers through their Employment Assistance Programs and help facilitate services for caregivers.

G. New Business

1. Town Budget: Put off full time position for a nurse at this time? Volunteer nurses manage blood pressure clinics.
2. Paul Raia: The Disabilities Committee is sponsoring a presentation on the use of medicinal marijuana for pain management. A Harvard researcher will be the featured speaker. A vote on a decision of endorsement by the COA was put on hold pending a discussion with the Town Counsel.

H. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

